

Practices That Work!

Reason for starting the innovative practice

Over more than 20 years since the Magat Watershed was placed under proclaimed status, its forest cover and water yield has seriously deteriorated rapidly as result of improper land uses aggravated by an uncertain tenurial system. Poverty incidence is also high in the upper reaches forcing mostly untenured people to engage in resource depleting and degrading practices to make a living.

Role of Implementing Organization

The provincial government through its ENRO and the DENR launched a multisectoral program that involved critical stakeholders in the Magat Watershed to redeem its marginal lands ravaged by years of misuse and neglect. The Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Committee has appropriated PhP 1 million as a start-up funding for the program, implemented jointly by the ENRO and DENR. A multisectoral TWG provides policy research and development, IEC and monitoring and evaluation support to program implementation.

How it works

The Provincial Government and the DENR identified existing and potential (watershed compatible) land uses and delineated protection and production forestlands. The program employs the concept of "beneficial use of the land" and a usufructuary mechanisms to encourage people to participate. It targeted open public forestlands for forest renewal under an incentive system that will allow participants full enjoyment of benefits accruing from their tree planting investments. It also aims to tap PO's, NGO's, municipal and barangay LGU's to rehabilitate environmentally critical resources within the watershed supporting vital services such as domestic water supply and irrigation.

How barriers/obstacles were overcome:

- Piece-meal and event-driven reforestation efforts that yielded dismally few results were confronted and alternative approaches were threshed out by multisectoral technical working group.
- Unclear and inconsistent policies and guidelines on tenure that has prevented stakeholders from seriously participating and investing were ironed-out with DENR. Consultation has since become the norm in breaking barriers in mobilizing people participation.

General Information

Innovative Practice Name

LGU Guarantees Watershed Legacy
Through Co-Management

Location

Nueva Vizcaya

Date Started

April 2000

Date Completed

November 2000

Estimated Cost

LGU Cost: PhP 1 Million (Mobiliza-
tion)

Implementing Office Address/Tel. No./ E-mail/Web site

Provincial ENRO
Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya

Contact Person/Address/Tel. No./ E-mail

Francisco Tolentino
ENRO
Provincial Capitol
Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya

Key Consultants/Address/E-mail

Mr. Emmanuel T. Salvosa
NVSIT Campus
Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya
Tel. (078) 321-4062
E-mail: emtasal@digitel.com

Dr. Nicolas Uriarte
Los Banos, Laguna
Tel. (049) 536-2904

- Forest renewal in the past did not have the benefit of a localized framework which can be supported by communities. Consensus on the “beneficial use/usufructuary mechanisms” provided an acceptable co-management arrangement.
- DENR provided a physical framework while local government added a governance envelop into the program structure and system.

Details of benefits and results

- Unprecedented demand from various stakeholders for available lands for tree plantations
- Resurgence in the interest of the ISF holders to engage in tree plantation development
- Renewed interest of various stakeholders in watershed management
- Increased demand for seedlings and sales from seedling producers
- The watershed co-management approach earned the province the 1999 Galing Pook Award for Innovation and Excellence
- The watershed co-management plant enabled DENR to work with an accepted framework supported by basic communities
- Greater and enhanced participation of barangay ensures value added benefits such as income derived from permits and future sale of certified trees



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